

# T H E C A S E

Of many Hundred of



## Paper-Makers, and Owners of Paper-Mills,

Within the Kingdom of *England*, to this present Parliament humbly presented.

**T**H A T the Paper-Makers within this Kingdom, time out of mind, have, and still do make great and vast quantities of Printing Paper, as well for the necessary use of this Kingdom as the *English* Plantations.

That there are very great Quantities of Brown-Paper already made, and in truth the making of Brown Paper will not pay the Charges; for the Paper-makers must and do loose by all of that sort they make, so that if the intended Act pass, and they not suffered to buy white Rags to make white Writing and Printing Paper, their Mills will be of no use, and they themselves, their Wives, and Families, absolutely ruined.

That the promoting of the said intended Act of Parliament is only by the Pattentees mentioned in the said intended Act, which are but a very few in number, and have not above Four or Five Paper-Mills, and yet in and by their Suggestion in their Case in Print to this Honourable House, as well as in their said intended Act, they pretend they can and will make as much white Writing and Printing Paper as will not only serve this Kingdom but also the *English* Plantations, when there is above One hundred Paper-Mills within this Kingdom, and the greatest Number of them always have employed the greatest part of their time in making of white Printing Paper, all which are but sufficient to compleat the Manufacture.

That there are not less than a Thousand Families within this Kingdom, besides the said Masters of Paper-Mills, which have no other dependency for a Lively-hood for themselves and Families (although they have severally served a legal Apprentiship to the said Trade) but merely from an Employment of the said several Paper-Mills, and making of white Paper, and it is undeniably evident they must be totally ruined if the said intended Act pass, in respect there is not above Four or Five Paper-Mills belonging to the said Pattentees, which are altogether disproportionable for the employment of so many Persons.

That it is visibly evident, the promoting of the said intended Act of Parliament by the said Pattentees carries along with it not only a Design to reimburse themselves the Moneys that they have most extravagantly laid out about the said Manufacture, but to ingross and monopolize all the ensuing Trade into their own hands, for that all other Paper-Mills will be disabled as well from the making of any manner of white Writing and Printing Paper, as also from the buying of any white Linnen Rags not only under a certain Penalty; but of the forfeiting of the said white Linnen Rags so bought, to the Governour and Company of white Paper-makers, as in and by the said intended Act is set forth, which is an absolute infringing of the Liberties and Priviledges of their Majesties Subjects, the said Paper-makers having always had the Priviledges and Freedome of making as well white Writing and Printing Paper, as Brown Paper, and are by the Law of this Land undeniably Authorised to exercise the said Art, they having served the Term of Seven years Apprentiship to the said Trade, and the said Design cannot pass but it must unavoidably ruine, and utterly undoe, as well the several Masters of Paper-Mills, as those numerous poor Families that have a Livelyhood from the said Paper-Mills, and a growing Oppression must consequently follow, when the whole Kingdom must be subject to Four or Five Mills only, when above a Hundred must be void of Employ.

That the several Paper-makers within this Kingdom have formerly made white Writing Paper, as well as Printing Paper, before the *French* Interest took footing in this Kingdom, and still can make as good white Writing and Printing Paper as any the Pattentees can pretend to make; and by reason the *French* did vend so much of white Writing Paper for such low Rates that the said Paper-Makers lost by making of the same; but now the Prices are greatly amended, so there will consequently follow an Encouragement for all the Paper-Makers in this Kingdom to make as well white Writing and Printing Paper as Brown Paper, if not prohibited by the said intended Bill and Letters Patents.

That the several Paper-makers, or the *Major* part of them have taken long Leases under great Rents, at Eighty or Ninety pound *per Annum*, which if the said intended Act pass the said Paper-Mills are not worth Ten pounds *per Annum*, and the Lessees must certainly be ruined by their own Covenants, and that which seems most unreasonable in this Case is, that the several Pattentees endeavour to repair their Losses by the destruction of others.

Lastly, the whole Matter and Premises being duly considered, we humbly submit to the Determination of this Honourable House, whether it is not to be presumed that those Paper-Makers which have served their Times to the said Paper-Makers Trade, and have since had above Twenty years experience (or the *Major* part of them) may be more capable of completing the Manufacture of making of white Writing and Printing Paper, than the said Pattentees, which are not of above three or four years standing.